

## 2024 UBCM Resolution:

Burnaby's Housing Needs Report estimates that the population of seniors 65 and over in Burnaby will increase by 17,140 by 2030. An estimated 3,150 units/beds of housing with support for seniors are needed to support this growing population.

Increasing available supports and supportive housing options for seniors is a strategy in Burnaby's Housing and Homelessness Strategy. An action item of this strategy is to advocate to the Provincial Government to implement the recommendations outlined in the Seniors Advocate's 2020 report, "A Billion Reasons to Care: A Funding Review of Contracted Long-Term Care in B.C.". This action seeks to increase the supply of accessible and/or supportive housing to meet current and anticipated needs of seniors and to improve the care that seniors receive in long term care homes.

The Office of the Seniors Advocate monitors and analyzes seniors' services and issues in B.C. while making recommendations to government and service providers to address systemic issues. In 2018, the B.C. province announced investments of over \$240 million over three years to increase the amount of direct care to 3.36 hours per day that residents receive in publicly subsidized long-term care. The Ministry of Health set a guideline that residents in long-term care facilities should receive, on average, at least 3.36 hours of direct care daily. Direct care hours include all care provided by registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), health care assistants (HCAs) and professional and non-professional allied health providers (such as physiotherapists).

The 2020 report into long-term care found that the not-for-profit sector is delivering more care hours than the for-profit sector, while receiving the same level of funding. According to the report, funding for direct patient care is commonly used to cover operational costs. The review found not-for-profit facilities delivered 93,000 more care hours than they were funded to deliver, and for-profit facilities failed to deliver 500,000 hours of care they were funded to deliver. Funded hours are also a blend of care received from several different health care disciplines (RNs, LPNs, HCAs and Allied Health). There is currently no legislation that governs detailed staffing requirements in long-term care facilities in B.C.

Therefore, be it resolved that UBCM urge the Government of British Columbia to implement safeguards to ensure responsible use of taxpayer dollars towards patient care so that direct care funding is spent on direct care only.

**WHEREAS** Funding for care must be spent on care. If additional revenue is needed to fund other operational costs, it should not be procured from funds meant for direct care.

**AND THEREFORE** BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Provincial Government create a standardized funding formula and reporting system to ensure that funding for care, is spent on direct care only and enact legislation that requires public funding for direct care staffing to be spent on direct care only.